

Message Text

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42

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 AF-10 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 /149 W

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R 021726 Z MAY 73

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7777

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS USUN 1630

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOCI, PN

SUBJECT: REPORT FROM PANAMA CONSIDERED BY COMITE ON
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

1. SUMMARY: CONSIDERATION OF SECOND PERIOD REPORT FROM PANAMA WAS UNEXPECTEDLY BRIEF. PANAMA REP AMB RIOS STATED THAT THE REPORT MADE NO REFERENCE TO CANAL ZONE, AS HIS GOVERNMENT PREFERS NOT TO BRING THIS SUBJECT BEFORE COMITE. WHEREAS TWO YEARS AGO CONSIDERATION OF PANAMA'S REPORT TOOK SEVERAL MEETINGS, THIS TIME IT WAS MERELY NOTED AFTER EXPRESSIONS OF SOLIDARITY WITH PANAMA WERE MADE BY SEVERAL OF THE EXPERTS PRESENT.

2. THE REPORT SUBMITTED BY PANAMA MADE NO REFERENCE TO THE CANAL ZONE. RECALLING ACCUSATIONS MADE TWO YEARS AGO BY PANAMA THAT THE US ENGAGED IN SYSTEMATIC DISCRIMINATION IN THE ZONE, SAYEGH (KUWAIT) ASKED WHY THIS REPORT STATED THAT " RACIAL DISCRIMINATION DOES NOT EXIST IN PANAMA IN ANY FORM." HE REALIZED THAT PERHAPS PANAMA MIGHT NOT WISH TO RAISE THIS ISSUE BEFORE THE COMITE, AND SAID THAT THE COMITE " DOES NOT WANT TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN MATTERS THAT STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION DO NOT WANT IT TO BE INVOLVED IN."
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3. AMB RIOS (PANAMA) REPLIED BY SAYING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT WISH TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE CANAL ZONE AT THIS TIME. HE THEN WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THE HISTORY OF THE ZONE, BEGINNING WITH THE

JURISDICTIONAL PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY OF 1903,
AND HE CLAIMED THAT PANAMANIAN HAVE WAGED A CONSTANT
STRUGGLE SINCE 1904 TO RE- ESTABLISH THEIR SOVEREIGNTY
AND THAT THEY WILL NEVER CEASE SEEKING TOTAL CONTROL
OF THE ZONE. HE ADDED THAT AT PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS
WITH THE US ARE DEADLOCKED.

4. AMB RIOS THEN SAID THAT THE US SYSTEMATICALLY
VIOLATES THE PRINCIPLES OF CERD BY PRACTICING
DISCRIMINATION IN SALARIES, HOUSING, AND EDUCATION
ON THE BASIS OF NATIONAL ORIGIN. HE SUPPORTED
HIS STATEMENT BY A REFERENCE TO AMB BOYD' S
21 MARCH SPEECH TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

5. SAYEGH (KUWAIT) EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER THE
SITUATION AND HIS HOPE THAT THE PANAMA- US BILATERAL
TALKS WOULD MOVE OFF DEAD CENTER. HE AS WELL AS
HASTROP (NIGERIA), PARTSCH (FRG), AND
MACDONALD (CANADA) SAID THAT THE COMITE COULD NOT
DISCUSS A MATTER OF JURISDICTION DECIDED BY A BILATERAL
TREATY. ONLY CALOVSKI (YUGOSLAVIA) AND SAFRONCHUK
(USSR) SAID THAT THE MATTER SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO
ATTENTION OF GA.

6. CHAIRMAN RODRIGUEZ EXPRESSED THE CONSENSUS. HE
SAID THAT THE ORAL REMARKS OF AMB RIOS WOULD BE CONSIDERED
PART OF PANAMA' S REPORT, WHICH WOULD BE VOTED BY THE
COMITE, AND THAT PANAMA WOULD BE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE
MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION IN ITS NEXT REPORT.
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